

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1836

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD JA

SUBJ: CITRUS/FUNGICIDE

REF: TOKYO 9205

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

1. ON JULY 21, MESSRS WADSWORTH, HOLLOWAY AND TAKESHITA PAID COURTESY CALL ON NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FOOD SANITATION DIV., MHW, DR. EIICHI NAKAMURA (SUCCESSOR TO MIURA). TERAMATSU WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. NAKAMURA SEEMED QUITE WILLING TO COOPERATE TO GET EARLIEST SOLUTION TO SUBJECT PROBLEM. HE AND TERAMATSU EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAVE SEARCHED THROUGHOUT GOJ AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FOR A JAPANESE SCIENTIST WELL VERSED IN FUNGICIDES AS THEY RELATE TO FRESH FRUITS BUT HAVE FOUND NO ONE TO DATE. THEY THEREFORE SUGGESTED WE ALERT USDA/W ABOUT NEED FOR THIS EXPERTISE. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE SOMEONE LIKE DR. SMOOT COMING HERE TO ANSWER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE ON AS LITTLE AS TEN DAYS' NOTICE.

3. ACTION SUGGESTED: PLEASE SELECT COMPETENT ARS SCIENTIST AND ASK HIM TO BE PREPARED TO COME WHEN NOTIFIED BY MHW VIA AGATT OFFICE. DR. SMOOT IS WELL THOUGHT OF BY MHW AND WOULD APPEAR TO BE GOOD CHOICE IF HE IS AVAILABLE. SCIENTIST SHOULD BE FROM ARS WITH GOOD CREDENTIALS. SCIENTIST FROM THE INDUSTRY, SUCH AS FROM ICCAP, WOULD PROBABLY NOT
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REPEAT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. SCIENTIST SHOULD BE WELL BRIEFED AND PREPARED TO DISCUSS ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR VARIOUS FUNGICIDES (INCLUDING DIPHENYL) TO CONTROL VARIOUS TYPES OF DECAY, NOT ONLY IN CITRUS BUT IN OTHER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

MHW TO DATE HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CITRUS ONLY BUT IF OPP AND/OR TBZ IS NECESSARY ON OTHER COMMODITIES WHICH ARE BEING OR MAY BE SHIPPED TO JAPAN, E.G., FRESH GRAPES OR CHERRIES, THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH MHW WHILE ARS SCIENTIST IS HERE.

4. MAIN REASON MHW DESIRES THIS TECHNICAL HELP IS THAT THERE IS APPARENTLY A CONTINUING DEBATE WITHIN MHW RE POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGING DIPHENYL FOR OPP OR TBZ, I.E., DISAPPROVING DIPHENYL AT THE TIME OPP AND/OR TBZ IS APPROVED. AGATT OFFICE CONTACTS FROM CALIFORNIA TELL US THIS WOULD BE A VERY BAD MOVE, WHILE FLORIDA SHIPPERS DON'T SEEM TO CONCERNED ABOUT LOSING DIPHENYL. AGATT OFFICE POSITION CONTINUES TO BE THAT ALL THREE ARE NEEDED.
HODGSON

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